CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

obtaining an original digital audio content containing a vocal recording;

providing an additional digital content including text of words present within the vocal recording; and

providing a link between the text of a word and a segment of the original content in which the word is vocalized.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the additional digital content is displayed to a user during playback of the original content.

3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the additional digital content further includes information about the words.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the additional content and the original digital audio content are linked in a database.

5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the additional content is displayed to a user in time-synchronization with the playback of the original digital audio content.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

playing the original digital audio content associated with text of words wherein the length and starting point of the text of words is responsive to a user input.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

playing a plurality of sequentially adjacent words from the text of words wherein a speed of playback is adjusted responsive to a user input.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising:

adjusting a pitch of audible playback in relation to the speed of playback to improve intelligibility of the spoken words.

9.   The method of claim 7 further comprising:

adjusting a time-spacing between spoken words in the playback in relation to the speed of playback to improve recognition of the spoken words.

10.   The method of claim 9 wherein:

the individual spoken words between the time spaces have their original natural pitch and speech rate preserved.

11.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

analyzing at least one of a user input, a context of the user input, a database of the digital audio content, a database of the additional digital content, and a database of user information;

specifying at least one of a beginning and ending point, a time sequence of playback, an additional digital content, and a type of modification of the playback; and

playing a segment consistent with the specification.

12.   The method of claim 1, wherein the additional digital content includes an index of words in the audio digital content, the method further comprising:

adjusting a speed of playback of the audio digital content responsive to a user input;

adjusting at least one of pitch and time-spacing of the words in the digital audio content to improve at least one of intelligibility and recognition; and

maintaining a correlation of words in the audio digital content to specific points in the audio digital content by reference to the index.

13.   The method of claim 1, wherein the additional digital content includes an index of words audible in the digital audio content, the method further comprising:

providing a library of audible pronunciations for a plurality of the words in the index; and

playing the pronunciations in response to a user input.

14.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

analyzing at least one of a user input, a context of the user input, a database of the audio digital content, a database of the additional digital content, and a database of user information to identify information of interest in relation to a segment of the original content; and

presenting the information of interest prior to playing the segment.

15.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

analyzing at least one of a user input, a context of the user input, a database of the audio digital content, a database of the additional digital content, and a database of user information to identify information of interest in relation to a segment of the original content; and

prompting the user for an additional input, the additional input to cause a further modification of the playback.

16.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing a link to other content accessible across a distributed network.

17.   The method of Claim 11 wherein the type of modification includes playing an audible additional content.

18.   The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

controlling access to at least one of content and functions based upon rights granted to the user.

19.   The method of Claim 18 wherein rights are granted based on payments received.

20.   A method comprising:

defining a segment within at least one of an audio and video digital content;

assigning at least one attribute to the segment;

delivering the segment and an attribute assignment information via a same type of media;

providing an interface to accept a user specification relating to the attribute; and

providing access to modify presentation of the media consistent with the specification.

21.   The method of Claim 20 further comprising:

indexing a plurality of segments according to attributes of the segments.

22.   The method of Claim 21 further comprising creating a database relating the segments and attributes.

23.   The method of Claim 20 further comprising linking additional content to the segment.

24.   The method of Claim 20 wherein the attribute relates to at least one of violent content, sexual content, nudity, and language content.

25.   The method of Claim 21 further comprising:

providing a review feature to allow a presentation of content based on the specification.

26.   The method of claim 20, further comprising:

providing additional content that includes an index of words spoken in a soundtrack of the audio and video digital content;

adjusting a speed of playback of at least one of the audio and video digital content responsive to a user input;

adjusting at least one of pitch and time-spacing of the words to improve at least one of intelligibility and recognition; and

maintaining a correlation of words spoken to specific points in at least one of the audio and video digital content by reference to the index.

27. The method of claim 20, further comprising:

providing additional content that includes an index of words spoken in the audio or video content;

providing a library of audible pronunciations for a plurality of the words in the index; and

playing the pronunciations in response to a user input.

28. The method of claim 20, further comprising:

analyzing at least one of a user input, a context of the user input, a database of the audio and video digital content, a database of an additional content, and a database of user information to identify information of interest in relation to a segment of the audio or video digital content; and

presenting the information of interest prior to playing the segment.

29. The method of claim 20 further comprising:

analyzing at least one of a user input, a context of the user input, a database at least one of the audiovisual digital content, a database of an additional content, and a database of user information to identify information of interest in relation to a segment of at least one of the audio and video digital content; and

prompting the user for an additional input, the additional input to cause a further modification of the playback.

30. The method of claim 20 further comprising:

providing a link to other content accessible across a distributed network.

31. The method of claim 20 further comprising:

controlling access to at least one of content and functions based upon rights granted to the user.

32.   The method of Claim 31 wherein rights are granted based on payments received.

33.   A method comprising:

obtaining an original content including at least one of video and audio content originally produced primarily for purposes other than language learning;

delivering the original content with an additional content via a same digital medium;

wherein the additional content includes a text database of the words present within the original content; and

wherein the additional content further includes information about the words.

34.   The method of claim 33 further comprising presenting at least one of the original content and the additional content to a user to facilitate language learning.

35.   The method of claim 33 wherein the digital medium is one of a DVD, a distributed network, the Internet, cable transmission, and radio transmission.

36.   The method of Claim 33 wherein the additional content is displayed to a user in time-synchronization with the playback of the original content.

37.   The method of claim 33 further comprising:

playing the original content associated with a plurality of sequentially adjacent words wherein the length and starting point of a sequence of words is responsive to a user input.

38.   The method of claim 33 further comprising:

playing a plurality of sequentially adjacent words wherein a speed of playback is adjusted responsive to a user input.

39.   The method of claim 38 further comprising:

adjusting a pitch of audible playback in relation to the speed of playback to improve intelligibility of the words present within the original content.

40.   The method of claim 38 further comprising:

adjusting the time-spacing between words present within the original content during the playback in relation to the speed of playback to improve recognition of words present within the original content.

41.   The method of claim 40 wherein the individual words present within the original content between the time spaces have their original natural pitch and speech rate preserved.

42.   The method of claim 33 further comprising:

analyzing at least one of a user input, a context of the user input, a database of the original content, a database of the additional content, and a database of user information;

specifying at least one of a beginning and ending point, a time sequence of playback, an additional content, and a type of modification of the playback; and

playing a segment consistent with the specification.

43.   The method of claim 33, wherein the additional content includes an index of words spoken in a soundtrack of the original content, the method further comprising:

adjusting a speed of playback of the original content responsive to a user input;

adjusting at least one of pitch and time-spacing of the words to improve at least one of intelligibility and recognition; and

maintaining a correlation of words spoken to specific points in the original content by reference to the index.

44.   The method of claim 33 wherein the additional content includes an index of words spoken in the original content, the method further comprising:

providing a library of audible pronunciations for a plurality of the words in the index; and

playing the pronunciations in response to a user input.

45.   The method of claim 33 further comprising:

analyzing at least one of a user input, a context of the user input, a database of the original content, a database of the additional content, and a database of user information to identify information of interest in relation to a segment of the original content; and

presenting the information of interest prior to playing the segment.

46.   The method of claim 33 further comprising:

analyzing at least one of a user input, a context of the user input, a database of the original content, a database of the additional content, and a database of user information to identify information of interest in relation to a segment of the original content; and

prompting the user for an additional input, the additional input to cause a further modification of the playback.

47.   The method of claim 33 further comprising:

providing a link to other content accessible across a distributed network.

48.   The method of claim 42 wherein the type of modification includes playing an audible additional content.

49.   The method of claim 33 further comprising:

controlling access to at least one of content and functions based upon rights granted to the user.

50.   The method of Claim 49 wherein rights are granted based on payments received.

51. A method comprising:

presenting an original content including at least one of video or audio content originally produced primarily for purposes other than language learning;

providing assistance to a user to facilitate language learning;

observing an activity of the user;

inferring the extent of knowledge of a language of the user; and

automatically adjusting the form of assistance to the user.

52. The method of Claim 51 further comprising:

delivering the original content with an additional content via a same digital medium;

wherein the additional content includes a text database of the words present within the original content; and

wherein the additional content further includes information about the words.

53. The method of claim 51 further comprising:

combining an additional content from a separate digital medium with the original content;

wherein the additional content includes a text database of the words present within the original content; and

wherein the additional content further includes information about the words.

54. The method of claim 51 further comprising:

playing the original content associated with a plurality of sequentially adjacent words wherein the length and starting point of the sequence of words is responsive to a user input.

55. The method of claim 51 further comprising:

playing a plurality of sequentially adjacent words wherein a speed of playback is adjusted responsive to a user input.

56. The method of claim 55 further comprising:

adjusting a pitch of audible playback in relation to the speed of playback to improve intelligibility of an audible word.

57.   The method of claim 55 further comprising:
adjusting a time-spacing between audible words in the playback in relation to the speed of playback to improve recognition of the audible words.

58.   The method of claim 57 wherein the individual audible words between the time spaces have their original natural pitch and speech rate preserved.

59.   The method of 51 further comprising:
automatically pausing the content during playback at a point and for a duration based on the extent of the knowledge.

60.   The method of 59, further comprising:
automatically offering an additional content during a pause based on the extent of the knowledge.

61.   The method of 51, further comprising:
prompting the user to indicate if they desire more or less assistance.

62.   The method of claim 51, further comprising:
providing additional content that includes an index of words spoken in a soundtrack of the original content;
adjusting the speed of playback of the original content responsive to a user input;
adjusting at least one of pitch and time-spacing of the words to improve at least one of intelligibility and recognition; and
maintaining a correlation of words spoken to specific points in the content by reference to the index.

63.   The method of claim 51, further comprising:

providing additional content that includes an index of words spoken in the original content;

providing a library of audible pronunciations for a plurality of the words in the index; and

playing the pronunciations in response to a user input.

64.   The method of claim 51 further comprising:

analyzing at least one of a user input, a context of the user input, a database of the original content, a database of an additional content, and a database of user information to identify information of interest in relation to a segment of the original content;

presenting the information of interest prior to playing the segment.

65.   The method of claim 51 further comprising:

analyzing at least one of a user input, a context of the user input, a database of the original content, a database of an additional content, and a database of user information to identify information of interest in relation to a segment of the original content; and

prompting the user for an additional input, the additional input to cause a further modification of the playback.

66.   The method of claim 51, further comprising:

providing a link to other content accessible across a distributed network.

67.   The method of claim 51, further comprising:
controlling access to at least one of content and functions based upon rights granted to the user.

68.   The method of claim 67, wherein rights are granted based on payments received.

69.   A method comprising:

obtaining an original content comprising at least one of a video and audio passively playable content;

delivering the original content with additional content including a text database of a plurality of words present within the original content via a same type of digital medium;

including in the database links between words and points in the original content in which they occur; and

providing access to modify playback of the original content according to words in the database.

70.   The method of claim 69 further comprising:

playing the original content associated with a plurality of sequentially adjacent words wherein the length and starting point of the sequence of words is responsive to a user input.

71.   The method of claim 69 further comprising:

playing a plurality of sequentially adjacent words wherein the speed of playback is adjusted responsive to a user input.

72.   The method of claim 71 further comprising:

adjusting the pitch of audible playback in relation to the speed of playback to improve intelligibility of the spoken words.

73.   The method of claim 71 further comprising:

adjusting the time-spacing between spoken words in the playback in relation to the speed of playback to improve recognition of the spoken words.

74.   The method of claim 73 wherein:

the individual spoken words between the time spaces have their original natural pitch and speech rate preserved.

75.   The method of claim 69 further comprising:

analyzing at least one of a user input, a context of the user input, a database of the original content, a database of the additional content, and a database of user information;

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specifying at least one of a beginning and ending point, a time sequence of playback, an additional content, and a type of modification of the playback; and

playing a segment consistent with the specification.

76.   The method of claim 69, wherein the additional content includes an index of words spoken in a soundtrack of the video or audio content, the method further comprising:

adjusting the speed of playback of the content responsive to a user input;

adjusting at least one of pitch and time-spacing of the words to improve at least one of intelligibility and recognition; and

maintaining a correlation of words spoken to specific points in the content by reference to the index.

77.   The method of claim 69 wherein the additional content includes an index of words spoken in the original content, the method further comprising:

providing a library of audible pronunciations for a plurality of the words in the index; and

playing the pronunciations in response to a user input.

78.   The method of Claim 69 further comprising:

providing a link to information about words present in a segment of the original content.

79.   The method of Claim 69 further comprising:

analyzing at least one of a user input, a context of the user input, a database of the original content, a database of the additional content, and a database of user information to identify information of interest in relation to a segment of the original content;

presenting the information of interest prior to playing the segment.

80.   The method of Claim 69 further comprising:

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analyzing at least one of a user input, a context of the user input, a database of the original content, a database of the additional content, and a database of user information to identify information of interest in relation to a segment of the original content; and

prompting the user for an additional input, the additional input to cause a further modification of the playback.

81.   The method of Claim 69 further comprising:

providing a link to other content accessible across a distributed network.

82.   The method of Claim 75 wherein the type of modification includes playing an audible additional content.

83.   The method of Claim 69 further comprising:
controlling access to at least one of content and functions based upon rights granted to the user.

84.   The method of Claim 83 wherein rights are granted based on payments received.

85.   A method comprising:

storing in a nonvolatile memory a most recently played point in the playback of a passively playable video content;

allowing the termination of the playback session; and

returning to the same point in the playback upon subsequent playback of the same content.

86.   A machine readable medium, having stored therein a set of instructions, which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations comprising:

obtaining an original digital audio content containing a vocal recording;

providing an additional digital content including text of words present within the vocal recording; and

providing a link between the text of a word and a segment of the original content in which the word is vocalized.

87.   A machine readable medium, having stored therein a set of instructions, which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations comprising:

defining a segment within at least one of an audio and video digital content;

assigning at least one attribute to the segment;

delivering the segment and an attribute assignment information via a same type of media;

providing an interface to accept a user specification relating to the attribute; and

providing access to modify presentation of the media consistent with the specification.

88.   A machine readable medium, having stored therein a set of instructions, which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations comprising:

obtaining an original content including at least one of video and audio content originally produced primarily for purposes other than language learning;

delivering the original content with an additional content via a same digital medium;

wherein the additional content includes a text database of the words present within the original content; and

wherein the additional content further includes information about the words.

89.   A machine readable medium, having stored therein a set of instructions, which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations comprising:

presenting an original content including at least one of video or audio content originally produced primarily for purposes other than language learning;

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providing assistance to a user to facilitate language learning;

observing an activity of the user;

inferring the extent of knowledge of a language of the user; and

automatically adjusting the form of assistance to the user.

90.   A machine readable medium, having stored therein a set of instructions, which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations comprising:

obtaining an original content comprising at least one of a video and audio passively playable content;

delivering the original content with additional content including a text database of a plurality of words present within the original content via a same type of digital medium;

including in the database links between words and points in the original content in which they occur; and

providing access to modify playback of the original content according to words in the database.

91.   A machine readable medium, having stored therein a set of instructions, which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations comprising:

storing in a nonvolatile memory a most recently played point in the playback of a passively playable video content;

allowing the termination of the playback session; and

returning to the same point in the playback upon subsequent playback of the same content.

92.   A machine readable medium, having stored therein a set of instructions, which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations comprising:

obtaining an original content comprising at least one of a video and audio passively playable content;

delivering the original content with additional content including a text database of a plurality of words present within the original content via a same type of digital medium;

storing in a nonvolatile memory a most recently played point in the playback of the original content;

allowing the termination of the playback session; and

returning to a defined point in the playback upon subsequent playback of the same content wherein the defined point is determined based on an analysis of the content.

93. The machine readable medium of Claim 92 wherein the defined point precedes the last point of playback and is determined by locating the beginning of at least one of a sentence, dialogue exchange, scene, topic or other logical segment of content.

94. The machine readable medium of Claim 92 wherein the defined point precedes the last point of playback is determined by considering the time elapsed since the last playback session.